

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /061 W

----- 046192

R 100500Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8018

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

-.EMBASSY MUSCAT QTW

S E C R E T SANA 1595

1. AT MY REQUEST, I CALLED ON AL-HAMDI MAY 9. DURING BRIEF MEETING WHICH LASTED ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES, AL-HAMDI HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT SAUDI ARMS DEAL, ALTHOUGH I PRESSED HIM SEVERAL TIMES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SULTAN VISIT "WENT WELL" BUT IF THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON RMS HE PROVIDED NO DETAILS ABOUT IT. HE SEEMED TO BE WAITING FOR SOMETHING FIRM FROM EM AND KEPT ASKING ME FOR MY REACTION.

2. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THAT THE ARMS PROGRAM SEEMED TO BE MOVING FORWARD. IN THIS REGARD, I INFORMED HIM THAT LETTERS OF OFFER HAD BEEN SENT TO CONGRESS, AND AFTER TWENTY DAY PERIOD WOULD PRESUMABLY BE READY TO SIGN. (HE SAID HE HAD HEARD NEWS ON BBC.) HE SEEMED TO THINK OF DEAL AS ONE PRIMARILY FOR "SAYYARAAT" -- VEHICLES. I ASSURED HIM THERE WERE OTHER ITEMS AS WELL BUT THIS ENGENDERED NO VISIBOE REACTION.

3. COMMENT: AL-HAMDI WAS USUAL LOW-KEY SELF. HE DIDN'T RAISE ANY QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLY FROM SOVIETS. HE DID SAY SOVIETS AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT YAR TURN TOWARD SAUDIS AND USG. IN ANY EVENT HE STILL SEEMED WILLING IF NOT ENTHUSIASTIC TO LEAVE ALL DETAILS OF NEW ARMS TO

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SAUDIS, DETAILS TO WHICH AS OF NOW AT LEAST HE DOES NOT

APPEAR TO BE INTIRELY PRIVY.

SCOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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